

## PEER REVIEW HISTORY

BMJ Open publishes all reviews undertaken for accepted manuscripts. Reviewers are asked to complete a checklist review form (<http://bmjopen.bmj.com/site/about/resources/checklist.pdf>) and are provided with free text boxes to elaborate on their assessment. These free text comments are reproduced below.

### ARTICLE DETAILS

<b>TITLE (PROVISIONAL)</b>	Barriers and determinants of asthma control in children and adolescents in Africa: A systematic review.
<b>AUTHORS</b>	Mphahlele, Reratilwe; Kitchin, Omolemo; Masekela, R

### VERSION 1 – REVIEW

<b>REVIEWER</b>	Dilokthornsakul, Piyameth Center of Pharmaceutical Outcomes Research (CPOR), Department of Pharmacy Practice, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Naresuan University, Phitsanulok, Thailand
<b>REVIEW RETURNED</b>	31-Jul-2021

<b>GENERAL COMMENTS</b>	<p>Comments on a manuscript entitled “Barriers and determinants of asthma control in children and adolescents in Africa: a systematic review”</p> <p>General comments:</p> <p>This study systematically reviews barriers and determinants of asthma control in children and adolescents in Africa. This is an interesting topic especially for LMICs. The review is well-conducted. The manuscript is well-written. Some minor comments should be addressed.</p> <p>Minor comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Authors might need to add some rationale why this review should be conducted in Africa (not all LMICs). What are differences between Africa and LMICs in other continents.</li><li>- Why did the authors pool uncontrolled asthma? It was not the objective of this study.</li><li>- Authors might need to consult SWiM study to report the synthesis without meta-analysis in systematic reviews.</li></ul>
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<b>REVIEWER</b>	Kling, Sharon Stellenbosch University
<b>REVIEW RETURNED</b>	23-Sep-2021

<b>GENERAL COMMENTS</b>	This is an extremely well-written article, and makes an important contribution to the literature on paediatric asthma. The major limitation is the paucity of studies from Africa.
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## VERSION 1 – AUTHOR RESPONSE

Reviewer: 1

Dr. Piyameth Dilokthornsakul, Center of Pharmaceutical Outcomes Research (CPOR), Department of Pharmacy Practice, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Naresuan University, Phitsanulok, Thailand

General comments:

\*This study systematically reviews barriers and determinants of asthma control in children and adolescents in Africa. This is an interesting topic, especially for LMICs. The review is well-conducted. The manuscript is well-written.

Author's response:

We thank Dr. Piyameth Dilokthornsakul for the encouraging comment.

Reviewer's comment:

Some minor comments should be addressed.

Minor comments:

\*Authors might need to add some rationale why this review should be conducted in Africa (not all LMICs). What are differences between Africa and LMICs in other continents?

Author's response:

Thank you for the perceptive comment and suggestion, we agree with the reviewer and have added statements to the Introduction to reflect the following:

1. Asthma in Africa is increasing and remains largely undiagnosed.
2. The prevalence of asthma has substantially increased in Africa over the last 2 decades.
3. The prevalence of asthma a decade ago was equal to more than a 3rd of the current global asthma prevalence.
4. There is a growing number of risk factors associated with urbanisation that may make asthma more prevalent and severe in Africa i.e. pollution, poverty, informal housing, lifestyle, and dietary changes.

Reviewer's comment:

\*Why did the authors pool uncontrolled asthma? It was not the objective of this study.

Author's response:

Thank you, we agree with the reviewer that this was not the objective of the study and have removed all information relating to pooled data.

Reviewer's comment:

\*Authors might need to consult SWiM guidelines to report the synthesis without meta-analysis in systematic reviews.

Author's response:

The SWiM guidelines checklist was used and all points were addressed. The checklist has been added to the supplementary documents.

Reviewer: 2

Dr. Sharon Kling, Stellenbosch University

Author's response:

We thank Dr. Sharon Kling for the encouraging comment.

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COI statements:

Reviewer: 1

Competing interests of Reviewer: I declare no competing interests.

Reviewer: 2

Competing interests of Reviewer: I have no competing interests. I do, however, know two of the authors as esteemed colleagues. I do not believe this has influenced my judgement in reviewing the article.

In addition to the above comments, grammatical changes in the manuscript were made.

#### **VERSION 2 – REVIEW**

<b>REVIEWER</b>	Dilokthornsakul, Piyameth Center of Pharmaceutical Outcomes Research (CPOR), Department of Pharmacy Practice, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Naresuan University, Phitsanulok, Thailand
<b>REVIEW RETURNED</b>	11-Oct-2021
<b>GENERAL COMMENTS</b>	The authors responded to my comments very well. It's acceptable for publication in BMJ Open.